Appl. No. 10/731,623
Amdt. dated August 15, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2007

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original)   A method of intercepting a transaction instantiated by a database application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the transaction to the database, the method comprising:

in response to a triggering action generated by the database application, calling an application program interface to raise an event;

initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction, instantiating a signature collection process.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name and an event id.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the signature collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name, an event id and an indication of whether the signature collection process is a synchronous process or an asynchronous process.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

6. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

7. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 6 wherein the unstructured data comprises extensible markup language ~~XML~~ data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

8. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 7 wherein the extensible markup language ~~XML~~ data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup language ~~XML~~ document that comprises extensible markup language ~~XML~~ fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language ~~XML~~ document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process; and

thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising committing the transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

11. (Previously Presented)   A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a database; and

a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-readable memory configured to store a computer program;

wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

(i) call an application program interface to raise an event in response to a triggering action generated by the database application;

(ii) initiate a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

(iii) instantiate a signature collection process if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

12. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name and an event id.

13. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein the signature collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.

14. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

15. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 14 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

16. (Currently amended)   The computer system of claim 15 wherein the unstructured data comprises extensible markup language ~~XML~~ data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

17. (Currently amended)   The computer system of claim 16 wherein the extensible markup language ~~XML~~ data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup language ~~XML~~ document that comprises extensible markup language ~~XML~~ fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language ~~XML~~ document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

18. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 further comprising:

obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process; and

thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

19. (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein the processor is further operative with the computer program to commit the transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

20. (Currently amended)   A computer program product stored on having a computer-readable storage medium storing a set of code modules which when executed by a processor of a computer system cause the processor to intercept a transaction instantiated by a database application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the transaction to the database, the computer program product comprising:
        code for calling an application program interface to raise an event in response to a triggering action generated by the database application;
        code for initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and
        code for instantiating a signature collection process if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

21. (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the code for initiating the workflow process comprises code for generating generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

22. (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

23. (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the unstructured data comprises extensible markup language XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

24. (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the extensible markup language XML data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup language XML document that comprises extensible markup language XML fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language XML document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.